1. Authentic assessment requires active engagement on the part of the student, constructing their own meaning and value to the material they have learned. They allow the use of open-ended, divergent thinking, and accommodate a wider variety of learning styles or abilities. In a traditional test a student might take a test about the characters, while in an authentic assessment a student might write a letter to the author embodying the character.
2. The key characteristics of authentic assessment are assessing student performance by relating the content or subject matter to real-world situations, rather than a traditional recall pen and paper multiple choice tests. While traditional tests are separate from teaching and learning, authentic assessment encourages students to talk to each other and those outside of the class to share ideas and refine their work.
3. The assessment I found that corresponds with the grade level (high school) and subject matter (Language Arts) that I am teaching can be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/EdTech/Assessment/CBAs/G9-12SpeakUp.pdf>

This assessment is for grades 9-12, and the topic is Global Issues and Educational Technology: *Advocate for Global Change: English Language Arts as Digital Storytelling*. This assessment fulfills criteria 1 by allowing the student to construct their own understanding of the topic, 2 by the nature of the open-endedness of the project, 3 by being consistent with the content of the sample lesson plan, 4 by allowing the student to create their project and record a PSA to present to the class, and 6 by providing a detailed rubric that both the student and teacher may use to evaluate the results. Criteria 5 is not explicitly satisfied, while there is opportunity for the student to interview or correspond with individuals outside of the class, it is not explicitly required in the rubric.

1. The two types of e-portfolios main purpose is either Learning/Reflection (an internal audience) or Showcase/Accountability (an external audience).
2. The Learning portfolio is a process, created over a period of time chronologically in order for the user to reflect on their acquired knowledge and growth. The Showcase portfolio is used as more of a summative assessment of learning, documenting the learner’s achievements, and is organized thematically.
3. The portfolios are similar in that they both are used as an assessment tool, and are valuable for the learner by actively engaging them in the content they are learning. Both are created for an audience, utilize the collection of artifacts and research, and must be organized in a way that culminates in a presentation.